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CRUX OF PEACE.

BELGIUM AND GERMAN

[BY JEAN HERBERT.]

Germany continues the diplomatic offensive for which the Pope has given her the initiative. Her plan is not always easy to follow, just as it was not always easy to see her main purpose during the battle of Verdun. Like the military operations of 1916, the political operations conducted to-day by Germany began before we expected them to do so.

In the same way as the Kromprinz, the German diplomacy seems to waver and sometimes seems to change its aim. However, if we look to what is being said in Germany, the enemy's programme appears clear to us.

The Germans consider that at present the war is "settled" (festgeföhrt) as the *Gazette of Frankfurt* says. They establish a statement of their situation and arrive at the following conclusions:

Military Result—Germany is for a time free from all fears regarding the East. A series of States—England, Canada, Lithuania, Poland, Roumania, will serve to isolate the German world from the Slavonic world, and at the same time to procure the mediums necessary to develop the German invasion into Russia. The Germans say to themselves that for several decades from now the Russians cannot possibly push forward.

Economical Result—The President of the Reichstag, opening in Frankfurt the propaganda campaign in favour of the new war loan, has led the populace to understand that Germany cannot hope for a war indemnity. The German newspapers are full of discussions of the arrangements that could be arrived at after the war, in order to import into Germany the raw materials indispensable to their export industries. The "Mittel Europa" is a block of territories, which have a very imposing aspect on the map, but can only open markets ridiculously insufficient to the German manufacturers.

THE "COMMERCIAL MOTIVE." Germany went to war in order to give to her policy, to her commerce, to her prosperity on a larger basis than previously existed. But this basis, far from being enlarged, is now much narrower. No acquisition in the Balkans, no restitution of any of her lost colonies, could compensate her for the advantages that Germany has lost in the British Empire, in America, in France, and even as far as in China.

The situation of the war can therefore be summed up for the Germans as a necessity and possibility. Concerning the economical point of view, the necessity to begin again to fight sooner or later, so as to oblige at last the countries in command of the seas (Great Britain, United States, France, Italy), to recognise the supremacy of the "pre-emptive" Continental Power, Germany.

With regard to the military point of view, the possibility for Germany to undertake a new war after a delay of ten to twenty years for Russia would not have time to be dangerous again by that period, and all the forces of the "Mittel Europa" could consequently be directed towards the West.

One must not believe that the Germans hesitate to make calculations which require a long period to elapse before their realisation. On the contrary, they have been deceived by the excessive hurry with which the Germans, such as Zimmermann, have tried to undertake everything at the same time, and one of their papers recalled to mind some little time ago that Bismarck owed his greatest successes to the patience with which he knew how to wait, patience that he had acquired during his life of "Gentleman Farmer."

The book of Bismarck dealing with the present bases of the politics of the world explains that the people "who progress" have every reason to let time work to their own profit against the "stagnant" people; and it is easy to see that the author considers Germany is a model progress, but Britain and France are the examples of stagnation.

During the end of 1917 the question for Germany is consequently to obtain a truce, precious for her just as in the spring of 1916 the question was for her to obtain a decisive victory at Verdun. In order to obtain a truce to suit her diplomatic purpose she now makes a diplomatic effort. On the military ground her main adversary in the spring of 1916 was France (Belgium was on France that she crushed at Verdun).

In the autumn of 1917 her principal political enemy was Great Britain; therefore it is with Great Britain that she must try to come to some arrangement. This is the reason why the Germans consider the Belgian problem as so very important. This question was the cause of Britain entering the war, and is for Germany the main obstacle to her peace. The Germans consider this question apart from the diplomatic discussion with the British Government without the interference of the other Allies, then all their wishes would be granted.

From their point of view, the Belgian State is an artificial creation of the British diplomacy and the Russian diplomacy. Placed between Britain and Germany, it constitutes a kind of area of which the statutes concern exclusively the two Governments of London and Berlin. Provided that the Belgian people are free to carry on their small business, their two powerful neighbours can impose on them by common consent, all the political, military or economical duties they may wish. This is tacitly, or overtly, the German theory. The only thing left to do is to come to an agreement with Britain, by means of some bargain, regarding the details of the region that should be assigned to Belgium; limitation of the military forces, separation between the Flemish Belgium and the Walloon Belgium, etc.

This way of looking at the problem is not only contrary to the rights of the Belgian nation, and consequently immoral, but it is also incompatible with the maintenance of peace in Europe.

What is necessary for Germany to begin war again? It is indispensable that their large metallurgical area of Rheinland-Westphalia should be protected against a counter-offensive which might be rapid.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

GERMAN PLOTS IN RUSSIA

Last month Professor Pares, of the Liverpool University, received at the offices of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, Boulevard-street, a number of journalists to whom he made a statement on the Russian position. Lord Burnham took the chair. The professor, who has recently arrived in London from Petrograd, spent nearly two years preceding last February in Russia, and his knowledge of the conditions on the south-western front in 1918 enabled him to say that the Russian troops were at that time up to the Austrians and in sight even of the Germans in the matter of munitions. Later, the division with which he lived, even without cartridges and reduced to the necessity of taking positions in night attacks with the bayonet. In hand-to-hand fighting the Russian soldiers were superior to the German. The autocracy had become effete, but the revolution did not take place on the abdication of the Tsar; it had taken place since. Three times in his presence German troops came over and asked for bread, and it was assumed the German case was hopeless. Then came the moment of the arrival of the agitators and the British people were as well-informed as he where they came from. They came either from the Council of Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates, or "on their own." The most important factor from start to finish had been the German hand.

Were we to be beaten by the Germans inside Russia? That was the issue—were we to be beaten out of the field? Russia, he declared, was bursting with food; but the peasants were holding it up because there was no Government. The peasant was not taking the land, but he was taking the crops. There were cases within his own knowledge where Russian peasants had got rid of landlords, and had then asked them to come back. It was the opinion of the best judges that the country was screaming for order. Long before the war there were Germans all over the country. The Russians hated, but feared them. The Allies were not engaged in trying to get out of its own obligations to the Russians, but in trying to hold the Russians to theirs. We had never previously given so much assistance as we are giving in munitions, money, Red Cross service, and in other ways, and all that was charged against this country by those residing in Russia who know the bearing of current events was that we were not letting our voice be heard. The best thing was, he suggested, to leave no doubt in the minds of the Russians that we were going to stick to them. Any other course on our part would mean that the Russians would walk into a German trap.

There was a volunteer movement for the reconstitution of the Russian army, on the basis of free engagement to serve. It was a question of morale, and it came to this, that if the Russians could not reform their forces on a voluntary basis the new régime could not be maintained. The volunteer oath meant a fight to a death, loyalty to the Alliance against Germany, the liberation of smaller peoples, no alcohol, and no surrender alive. "If I break this oath," said the volunteer, "may I be excluded from the rights of citizenship." Casualties in the volunteer regiments had reached 60 per cent., and depleted battalions had quickly filled up again. The artillery and cavalry regiments were sound; shock troops were sound; wounded men were sound; though it might seem a paradox, and though such men minus a leg or an arm had been found serving machine-guns. The men who had escaped from captivity were sound. They were invaluable, because having been abominably treated, they threw their weight into the scales against fraternisation with Germans.

At the close Lord Burnham thanked the professor, and said we ought to attach great importance to a good understanding with Russia. Unless this were done all that was implied in commercial enterprise and reciprocal relationship would make for the advantage of our enemies. Our commercial relations were just as important as those of a military character.

and powerful. Now this condition can only be filled if the German troops can, at the beginning of a new war, occupy immediately the greater part of the Belgian territory.

Therefore, he can say that the key to our future peace is in Belgium. Either Belgium will be protected from a sudden attack, and in that case Germany will run incalculable risks in unchaining a conflict; or else Belgium will be at the mercy of a German invasion, and Germany, whatever may be the number of the battalions and the guns she will officially possess, will dispose of a military material as formidable as she will wish. Her metallurgical factories will be converted from day to day into munitions works.

Therefore, the problem of Belgium is not a diplomatic question, but mainly and before all a military question. It is not only because of Antwerp and Zeebrugge that it should interest Great Britain, but also in view of the European balance and of the peace of the world. However, even if Belgium regains her full independence and her frontiers of 1914, she would evidently not be able to defend herself against an attack from Germany. Certain strategical modifications, such as the annexation of Luxembourg should be necessary. Also the support of Great Britain and the immediate port of France. And the aid from France should not come only through Givet or Maubeuge as in 1914, but also through Metz and Wissemburg. The question of Belgium is indissolubly attached to the question of Alsace-Lorraine.

This is why the Germans would like to make Britain forget this fact. This is why they insist so much—even in their Socialist papers—upon establishing a wall between the Belgian problem and the Alsace-Lorraine question, that is, between their great subject of dispute with Britain and their great subject of dispute with France.

They will not succeed. Their diplomacy will lose the battle of Belgium as their staff lost the battle of Verdun.

MIDDLE WEST SOLID.

GERMAN INFLUENCE OVERPOWERED

[BY "THE TIMES" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 28th.

Since I came to the United States in the middle of July I have been wanting to know what the Middle West was feeling and thinking about the war. I was told by all whom I consulted at New York that it "needed waking up." The people of the Middle West I was assured with grave headshaking, did not realize the war, understand it, or like it. "In time, perhaps," the sentence remained portentously unfinished.

With doubt and misgiving I came, therefore, to the Middle West, that vast territory of 40,000,000 people, which includes the great farming States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa. I came expecting to find if not open hostility, lukewarm interest in the war, an absence of vigour in adopting war measures, unwillingness even to think of war sacrifices.

Now I am on my way back to tell my New York informants that they were grossly wrong in what they told me. I shall prove to them how wrong they were. Let me rehearse a few of my proofs.

Cleveland was the first place visited. I arrived about noon, and heard familiar noises like exploding bombs. They were bomb explosions—harmless bombs—scattering Liberty Loan leaflets to the people in the central square of the city. I stood and counted attentively the number of explosions in order to learn how many millions of dollars Cleveland subscribed to the loan by mid-day.

Hanging outside a factory I saw a flag, blue with many stars upon it, and asked what it was. I was told it was to show how many men had gone to the war from this establishment. These flags hang everywhere. There is a spirit-stirring rivalry between places of business as to which can show most stars.

I went to two meetings in one evening. The first was a Y.M.C.A. meeting, beginning Cleveland's effort to assist in raising seven million pounds for war work. Thousands of men, young, middle-aged, and elderly, packed tightly together, clapped hands vigorously (Americans do not cheer) in sign of approval at every reference made to the need of energetic war activity for all. The next meeting was composed of business men. Tickets had been given to as many as applied upon the understanding that the rule of admission was first come first served. Holders of tickets who did not come early could not get in; there were throngs round every entrance. The local newspaper said next day that thousands were disappointed, and that there was a riot outside. A big overflow meeting was held in the street the following October night and was unattended; the indignation against Germany's disturbance of the peace kept the listeners warm enough.

Inside, Lord Northcliffe, speaking as Chairman of the British Mission, was received with a warmth which surprised him, accustomed as he is by now to the enthusiasm of American audiences. The people stood up, clapped hands, and waved flags for nearly two minutes. Mr. Herrick, late United States Ambassador at Paris, had introduced the city's guest as one of the most powerful men in Europe. "What he did," said Mr. Herrick, "was as much for our benefit as for the benefit of his own country."

He stirred Britain to a knowledge of what were the needs of her arms at a critical time brought about the necessary change of Government, and abolished party lines. That immense service to our Ally was serving also to us. That great meeting proved by applause, both loud and long continued, that it understood how real in the Allies' interdependence upon one another, and how needful is that close co-operation for which Lord Northcliffe asked.

FOREIGN ELEMENT DIVIDED. Cleveland has a very large proportion of inhabitants of foreign origin. I heard it put as high as 82 per cent. Mr. Baker, the Secretary of War, a former mayor, told me that in one ward 39 languages were spoken, and that there were large districts where English was never heard. But at a luncheon of the heads of big businesses which I attended at a luncheon where it was whispered the guests represented hundreds of millions of dollars; only one of those at table bore a foreign name. It is still men of British, especially Scots and Irish ancestry, who are the industrial and commercial chiefs, as also the governing classes in the States.

It was no doubt the existence of so large foreign elements in the Middle West which suggested to New York suspicion of the Mid-Westerners was keeness. But the foreigners, it must be borne in mind, are far from forming a solid block of Teuton-Americans. In Milwaukee, for instance, there are now almost as many Poles as Germans, and the Poles are fired by a passionate longing to rid the world of the Prussian domination under which they have suffered so long. German immigration into the United States has been small in recent years while the number of Slavs pouring in has been very large. That has helped to keep German influence down.

In most cities of the Middle West the greater number of shops display German names over their windows. But many of these names are borne by Jewish traders and there is a gulf fixed between German-Americans and German Jewish-Americans. In Chicago I learned that the two classes had nothing in common. A year ago the Germans held a bazaar in aid of war charities. The Jewish folk of German origin kept aloof and the bazaar was a failure. These folk have become American and have dropped the prefix German. They are not so numerous as the Germans who kept up their double nationality, but they have more influence. Among the double-faced German-Americans the Lutherans from Prussia are the bitterest and most dangerous, the Roman Catholics from Southern Germany the least objectionable. A few Catholic priests who made attempts to stir up opposition to the war were sent by the Archbishop of Chicago to a remote convent. Nothing of this reasonable kind has been heard of since.

The feeling about the war in Chicago has altered during the last month or two. I was there on the first wholesale day and heard nothing but approval of this measure. I saw a Loan parade many times longer and more elaborate than our Lord Mayor's show, and the whole population watched it pass. A few days before the biggest demonstration the city has even known had applauded the eloquent labour advocate, Mr. Clarence Darrow, when he recited the tale of Britain's effort in the war, and declared himself thankful that he had escaped that "hated of England which almost every American boy learns at his mother's knee."

Men who not long ago were asking scornfully why the English let others do all the fighting are now saying fervently, "We are with you; the old country has put up a bully fight."

Kansas City prides itself on the smallness of the population of foreign origin. But in the pleasant rolling country all around are villages entirely German. Some of their inhabitants who had spoken in defence of Hun ambition and Hun savagery are likely to suffer when the American casualty lists begin to be published. "In this part of the country," an American very well known in Europe told me, "most men carry guns (meaning pistols), and if the Germans practise their brutalities on our men at the front these guns will be used right here." I found a bitter feeling in Kansas and Missouri against Germans of doubtful loyalty. A former senator from Des Moines, Iowa, harangued me heatedly about the danger of letting them be at large. The burning of part of Kansas City stockyards, whereby 11,000 sheep and hogs were destroyed, has awakened uneasy fears, and guards everywhere are being strengthened. At one of Lord Northcliffe's meetings a local speaker said, "Those who are not with us are against us. They should either go back where they came from or be stood against the wall and shot." That was heartily clapped.

22,000,000 RAISED AT A LUNCHEON. In St. Louis (second final "a" please) the people of German origin form one-third of the population, which is nearly a million. They keep quiet. They subscribe to the war loans. Their sons march off to the training camps. I heard from a company officer that in his company of 150 not more than 10 had English names. There is no difference between them, however, he added, in any other respect. It is significant that that most venomous of the German language newspapers in the United States, the *Weltliche Post*, of St. Louis, has been compelled by business considerations to turn its English publication into an organ of loyal Kaiser-nating Americanism.

The leading citizens of St. Louis include many with German names. But they are good Americans, and mark their appreciation of the visit paid to the city by the Chairman of the British Mission. They lined up at the railway station at 6 in the morning to bid him welcome. Here again the group owned among them many millions of dollars. St. Louis is vastly prosperous; one company alone is turning out 20,000,000 worth of boots this year, mostly for the Army.

Cincinnati, where the population is two-thirds of German origin, is also full of money. At a luncheon of business men over 22,000,000 was subscribed for the loan. Not less significant of the war-like ardour of the Middle West is the dropping of the word "draft." The prejudice against men who waited to be fetched is so strong that the latter are now called "Selects" or "Selectives," in order to save them from unpleasantness.

Need for more light on the origin and objects of the war there certainly is in the Middle West States. Need for instruction about Britain's effort, naval, military, financial. The people know that they need such instruction and listen eagerly to speakers with first-hand information. They have received very well Lord Northcliffe's appeals to them to be economical with food, and they have been stirred by his elaboration of Mr. Lloyd George's cry for ships, ships, ships. They have seized the opportunity presented by our tour of making plain their sympathy with Britain and their desire to take whatever part they can in bringing victory nearer.

The Middle West, shall tell my New York friends, is sound and solid and that there is no danger of weakening there.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P.

LEAVE REGULATIONS (PARADES AND DRILLS.) Departmental Order No. 87 is suspended until further notice, and the following will take its place:

87. No member below the rank of Inspector shall absent himself from any Parade, Drill, Lecture, Practice, etc., without the permission of either the D.S.P. or Adjutant. No application will be entertained unless made in writing and submitted through the proper channels. Inspectors and senior ranks will apply direct for such permission.

PARADES CENTRAL, 5.30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 19th.—No. 3 Platoon.

Thursday, December 20th.—No. 3 Company and Ambulance Platoon (under own Chief Inspector).

Friday, December 21st.—No. 1 Platoon.

Rifles of Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons will be inspected by the Musketry Officers immediately after the fall-in and before roll-call.

APPLICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

All applications, correspondence, etc. (excepting reports), will in future be addressed to the A.S.P. (R) and Adjutant only and delivered at the Police Reserve Headquarters Office, not to his business or private address.

By Order, T. F. HOGAN.

A.S.P. and Adjutant.

20th December.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER. HONGKONG SENDS £200 TO THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND.

In our issue of yesterday we expressed the hope that Hongkong's contribution to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of the sufferers by the terrible explosion in Halifax would amount to £500. We are glad to be able to announce now that that hope has been more than realised. Yesterday we received nearly £1,700, which raises the total to over £700. The money will be telegraphed in full to London to-day. We beg to thank our readers for the generous response which they have made to the appeal at a time when there are so many other claims upon their purses. Already acknowledged £3,175 and £10 Messrs. Shawan, Thomas & Co.

Anonymous	1,000
Mr. Chow Shau Son	100
Mr. Chau Tung Shang	50
Mr. Li Po Kwei	50
Mr. Leung Kwei Tin	50
Mr. Chau Yue-ting	50
Mr. Ip Sau Chi	50
Mr. Chan Pek Chuen	50
Mr. Lai Ying Kee	25
Mr. M. K. Lo	25
Mr. Chun Kang Yue	25
Mr. Ho Kwong	25
Mr. Yau Sui Chi	25
H. P. T.	25
Mr. L. Forster	10
Anonymous	25
Total	£4,835 and £215

THE SITUATION AT SWATOW PEACE RESTORED.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SWATOW, December 17th.

Although the fighting at Swatow has ended, Chaochowfu is still besieged by Cantonese troops, and General Mok, with his Northern soldiers, is placed in a predicament. Some of the shops have opened their doors to resume business, which, it is to be hoped, will not be further hampered by political disturbances. Looting has ceased in consequence of the victorious Cantonese General issuing a manifesto ordering all stolen articles to be returned to their respective owners and threatening to shoot any who fail to obey. Two men have already paid the penalty. Most of the Cantonese-General Mok's deserters have been despatched to Chaochowfu, probably to help in the siege, whilst others are disarmed. The new ruler has proclaimed martial law, and only the military police are armed.

Thanks to the efforts of the responsible authorities, a British warship has arrived, for the further protection of foreigners. The Japanese marines have proved worthy of the task with which they were entrusted. Had it not been for the timely arrival of a Japanese cruiser—for which the Japanese Consul deserves warm thanks—we might not have fared so well as we have done. The majority of the refugees have returned to find, in many cases, their houses and property either destroyed or damaged. The Anglo-Chinese College, at Kialat, suffered terrible damage from gun-fire, the building serving as a barrier between the opposing forces. Part of the roof was demolished, some windows were broken, and the walls of the building were punctured with large and small holes. It is reported that an explosion occurred in one of the College rooms, doing much damage. Luckily, the students had all left for shelter before the actual fighting began.

LATER.

To-day a rumour is current that some sort of peace has been arranged between the Cantonese and Northern leaders. Consequently, the Southern forces raised the siege of Chaochowfu, and the Northern forces, thus liberated, marched in an easterly direction.

The Swatow-Chaochowfu trains have resumed running.

AVIATOR'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

After one of the most miraculous escapes of the war, Major Bannatyne, D.S.O., is now recovering from his injuries in the Cirencester Hospital. While flying alone at a height of more than 1,000 feet his engine caught fire. He headed the machine towards the ground. Within a few minutes the flames reached his feet. He climbed out of the seat and crawled along the body of the plane towards the tail while the blazing plane plunged towards the earth. The flames reached him again. He swung himself off the frame and hung by his hands under the machine—now a mass of flames. Just before the glowing wreck struck the ground Bannatyne dropped. He fell into a ploughed field and was picked up suffering from a broken arm, scores of cuts and with all his hair scorched to a crisp. The machine crashed into a shed and both were consumed by the flames.

PRIVY COUNCIL'S DECISION IN A HONGKONG CASE. LOCAL JUDGMENT REVERSED.

We are informed that a telegram has just been received from London containing the result of an appeal from Hongkong to the Privy Council in the action, Tong Shan v. Fung Ping Shan and Fung Yee Chai.

This case, it will be remembered, concerned a mortgage to the defendants, who are bankers, of certain property claimed by the plaintiff, who applied to have the transaction set aside. The trial involved questions of law, and engaged the attention of the local Courts for a considerable period. The original judgment of the Chief Justice was for the plaintiff. On appeal to the Full Court here, consisting of the President (Sir Havilland de Saumarez) and the Puisne Judge (Mr. Justice Gompertz), the Judges disagreed, the President's view being in favour of the defendant bankers and the Puisne Judge's in favour of the plaintiff, and consequently the original judgment stood. On further appeal to the Privy Council the result is that the view of Sir Havilland de Saumarez has been upheld, and the Hongkong decisions have, therefore, been reversed, final judgment being given for the defendant bankers with costs both in the Privy Council and below.

Counsel for the plaintiff was Mr. Eldon Potter (instructed by Messrs. Hastings & Hastings) and Counsel for the defendant bankers was the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon, Looker, Deacon & Haraton).

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY. UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

A Chinese was charged, on remand, with the unlawful possession of 4lbs. of raw opium.

Revenue Officer Clarke stated that defendant had the opium concealed round his waist.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$250; in default, three months' hard labour.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

An Indian watchman was charged with being drunk and disorderly.

Inspector Sim stated that defendant was found on Tuesday night in Queen's Road East quite incapable. He had been brought before the court several times before for similar offences.

A Police Reservist said he found defendant very drunk and creating a disturbance.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$5.

THEFT OF SUGAR.

A Chinese employed by the China Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd., pleaded guilty to stealing half a pound of sugar from the Refinery.

Inspector Sim stated that defendant was noticed by a watchman leaving the Refinery at about 6 a.m. His movements aroused suspicion and, on being searched, nearly half a pound of sugar was found concealed in a bag underneath his jacket.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to three days' hard labour and four hours' stocks, opposite the Refinery.

ALLEGED PICKPOCKET DIS- CHARGED.

A Chinese youth was charged with picking the pocket of an elderly Chinese in Queen's Road West.

The complainant said that while he was walking along he felt someone tugging at his coat pocket, and, turning round, caught defendant, who attempted to run away. Witness searched his pockets and discovered he had lost \$10, which were in \$5 notes. The money, however, was not found in defendant's possession; evidently it had been passed on to a confederate.

Defendant said he was standing opposite a refreshment room, after having partaken of some tea with some friends, when complainant suddenly pounced upon him and, handling him violently, accused him of picking his pocket.

Mr. J. R. Wood, discharged the defendant.

VOLLEY BALL.

HONGKONG LEAGUE—JUNIOR DIVISION.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE v. YING-WA COLLEGE.

The final match in the above league will be played to-day at 4.15 p.m. between teams from Ying-wa and Queen's Colleges on the Chinese Y.M.C.A. grounds (70, Bridges Street). A close and exciting game is expected. Mr. A. H. Harris, Commissioner of Customs at Kowloon, has kindly consented to present the cup to the winners at the close. There is a growing interest in the game of Volley Ball among the students of the Colony, and accommodation has been made for a large attendance at to-day's game. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

SPORT. CRICKET.

ARMY v. NAVY.

The trial match between the Army and Navy, which commenced last Wednesday on the Hongkong Cricket Club ground, was continued yesterday. When play was suspended last week the Navy, who batted first, had finished their innings for 131 runs, and the Army had made 63 for the loss of six wickets. The seventh wicket yesterday brought the score up to 154, the partnership between Cooper and Adams realising 91 runs. Cooper was in splendid form and hit out vigorously, his innings of 84 including ten fours. There were no fewer than nine fours, also, in Adams' score of 44. The innings eventually realised 237. The Navy, in their second attempt, were only able to obtain 87 runs. Reakes was practically unplayable, and captured five wickets for 14 runs. The Army thus won the two-days' match by an innings and 10 runs. The successful team, however, want in a second time and made 148 runs for the loss of four wickets in three-quarters of an hour. Major Robertson treated the spectators to a fine exhibition of vigorous driving, his score of 64 comprising a couple of sixes and several fours. Lt. Murray also hit out lustily. Scores:—

ARMY.	
Lt. Murray, b. Gibson	10
Captain Gray, c. and b. Morgan	29
Corpl. Graham, c. Hack, b. Morgan	17
Gr. Sharmar, c. Hack, b. Morgan	2
Br. Ahorne, c. Luxon, b. Morgan	1
Lt. McConnell, b. Oakes	1
Gr. Cooper, c. Mayhew, b. Oakes	84
Corpl. Adams, c. sub. b. Oakes	44
Br. Drummond, not out	20
C. Q. M. S. Reakes, c. Morgan, b. Oakes	19
Major Robertson, c. Robinson, b. Hack	64
Extras	10
Total	237

Bowling Analysis.	
Morgan	17 2 75 4
Gibson	10 1 51 1
Oakes	9 0 49 3
Henley	3 0 14 0
Robinson	4 0 30 0
Hack	2 0 13 1

NAVY.	
Lt. Bernard, c. Sharmar, b. Gray	2
Sig. Hack, b. Gray	6
A. B. Henley, b. Graham	15
Br. Oakes, b. Reakes	24
Wtr. Staley, b. Graham	4
Pto. Travis, c. Sharmar, b. Gray	2
Pto. Moriarty, b. Reakes	7
Major Mayhew, b. Reakes	5
Lt. Col. Morgan, b. Sharmar, b. Reakes	0
A. B. Robinson, b. Reakes	14
Commander Gibson, not out	2
Extras	6
Total	87

Bowling Analysis.	
Gray	5 0 33 2
Graham	5 0 34 2
Reakes	4 0 14 5
McConnell	4 0 20 0

ARMY.	
Major Robertson, b. Morgan	64
Capt. Gray, c. Gibson, b. Hack	17
Lt. Murray, lb.w., b. Morgan	33
Corpl. Graham, c. Robinson, b. Gibson	28
Lt. McConnell, not out	5
Extras	1
Total (for 4 wickets)	148

Bowling Analysis.	
Staley	3 0 13 0
Hack	5 0 52 1
Oakes	2 0 18 0
Henley	1 0 63 0
Morgan	4 1 27 2
Gibson	4 0 34 1

UNIVERSITY v. CIVIL SERVICE.

The following will represent Mr. Pensonby-Fane's University Past and Present XI. against the Civil Service next Monday on the Civil Service Ground at 11 a.m.:—K. Drayshay, W. Gittens, A. de Sousa, G. E. Marley, Ng Sze Kwong, Ng Sze Yuen, F. A. Redmond, A. H. Runjahn, R. Pensonby-Fane (Capt.), J. D. Wright and Yew Man Tsun.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

88th CO., R.G.A. 0; v. MIDDLESEX RES. 0.

This 2nd division match was played at the Happy Valley yesterday on the Navy Ground. The Middlesex were, unfortunately, a man short, and had to pick up a substitute on the field. The game had not been in progress many minutes before Sharmar, noted for the gunners. Shortly afterwards Hancock scored the second goal with a good shot. This was the best shot of the match, most of the goals being scored at close range or through the ball being huddled into goal. Lieut. Millington followed with another for the Artillerymen, and before the half-time whistle sounded Taylor had notched two more, giving his side the lead at half-time of 5 goals to nil. The Infantrymen paid an occasional visit to the other end. On one occasion a goal seemed certain, as they were all around the R.A. goal, and in the mix-up Griffiths, the goalkeeper, was brought down, but the ball was eventually put behind.

The gunners fell away considerably after the interval, mainly because they nearly all tried to score. The Middlesex improved correspondingly, and although they did not often assume the offensive their defence was much sounder.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

AN UNSINKABLE SHIP. ANTI-SUBMARINE CARGO BOATS.

It has been hoped that America's entry into the war will materially assist the Allies in defeating the German submarine campaign. Not only has America a large fleet of fast mosquito craft, but she has the reputation of being a nation of inventors and the popular mind has been waiting hopefully for the announcement of the invention of a new device either to protect merchantmen against attack or to detect and destroy the submarine.

The best inventive brains of America, as well as of the Allies are working on the problem of halting the operations of the U-boats, but the Germans, on the other hand, are equally active in seeking to devise ways and means to nullify their opponents' defences. It would seem that the only reliable check against underwater assault lies in either modifying the structural set-up of existing merchantmen or building freighters of a special type that can survive the blow of a torpedo or, better, be immune to foundering if hit twice below the water line. This in the face of the record of merchantmen already destroyed sounds very doubtful of achievement. But technical minds in America have been very busy in seeking solutions of this problem.

AN ITALIAN MODEL.

Among special modern cargo carriers is a type known to the shipping world as the turret steamer. It is in effect an improvement upon the whaleback merchantman, which originated in America in the early 90s. The turret ship has what is called a harbour dock, which rises only a short distance above the water line, and then turns inboard for some feet, where it merges with a relatively narrow upright fore and aft section which constitutes the turret feature. An American-Italian naval architect, Umberto Piuselli, has by taking the type of this turret ship and remodelling it internally, devised an anti-submarine freighter claimed to withstand the attack of torpedo or the explosion of a mine. To be exact, he has gone further, because his scheme calls for the submergence of the harbour dock, and leaves, when the vessel is loaded, only the turret-like superstructure above the surface of the water. The purpose of this partial submergence has nothing to do with defence against the U-boat, but is the consequence of a desire to obtain the greatest possible cargo-carrying capacity.

The new non-sinkable steamer is designed to be built of steel, and, by an ingenious disposition of the bulk freight, the inventor makes the cargo serve in part as an effective bulwark against the explosive force of either a torpedo or a floating mine. Strictly speaking, the ship is in effect a craft of four skins, and these are so interposed along the line of probable assault that it is extremely unlikely that the innermost skin would be ruptured. The designer has taken additional pains to restrict the area of possible injury, so that the enemy would have to hit more than once in order to have any chance of sinking the freighter. The principal cargo is distributed to form a defensive barrier round the engines, boilers, auxiliary machinery, coal and ammunition. Hatches are placed directly over the freight spaces. This bin-like arrangement is further increased by bulkheads spaced every 25 feet throughout the length of the vessel.

IN CASE OF AN EXPLOSION. In this way a torpedo or mine exploding against any of these separate compartments would probably not flood any of the planking spaces for the reason that the line of least resistance for the explosive gases would be upward and outward through the hatches. The boilers, engines, etc., are further protected by three longitudinal bulkheads. The interval between these steel walls is 6 feet. The purpose of this air space is to reduce the violence of an explosion to the minimum. The gases given off at the instant of detonation are their power to wreck to their extreme heat, and, therefore, to their extraordinarily rapid expansion. Anything that will tend to chill the gases and thus cause them to contract will lower their destructive power. Pugliese expects the cargo to help to accomplish this, and then should the cases reach the longitudinal spaces, the volume of air there and the easy path upwards should so divert the harmful force that the remaining bulkheads will not be impaired. That is to say, the vitals will be protected and the area of injury substantially limited to one cargo division. Water entering this moderate area would in no wise endanger the floatability of the ship.

Pugliese claims that his special type of craft can last in about the same time as the ordinary freighter, and he is confident that the cost will be nearly identical.

BILLIARDS.

SOLDIERS' CLUB TOURNAMENT.

The H.K.D.C. regained a few of the points they lost the previous evening in this competition at the Soldiers' Club, on Tuesday night. The games were both very even. C. S. M. Rosario made a 30, which was the best break of the evening. Scores:—

"A" CO., H.K.D.C.	
Mr. Handley-Pegg	250
Mr. Davidson	250
3 AND 4 P. H.K.D.C.	
Mr. Rosario	239
Mr. Sequiera	247

There was only one goal scored in this half. Hancock scoring for the 88th Company. The Artillery goal was in danger on one occasion, but Griffiths fisted away successfully, and remained unbeaten to the end. Result:—88th Co., R.G.A., 6; Middlesex Res., 0. Referee—Mr. Frost.

INTIMATIONS

NO BETTER VALUE IN XMAS GIFTS

IS OBTAINABLE THAN IN
THOSE SHOWN BY

LANE, CRAWFORD & COMPANY.

WHICH ARE OF THE HIGHEST
QUALITY AND YET OF LOW PRICE.

A VISIT TO OUR STORE WILL PROVE THAT
THERE IS NO NEED TO BUY OTHER THAN

BRITISH GOODS FOR YOUR GIFTS.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

PAINTS & VARNISHES.

S. W. P.—PREPARED PAINT.

FLAT-TONE—A flat oil paint for interior decoration.

CONCRETE FINISH—The ideal paint for concrete and plaster walls.

WORLD BRAND ZINC—28lb. pails.

"OLD DUTCH" ENAMEL.

Colour cards and information on application.



Andersen, Meyer & Co., Ltd.,
Sole Agents.
Hotel Mansions, Telephone 1990.



Wm Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 346

A Large Variety of Xmas Presents.

Fancy Bags, Hdkfs., Pincushions, Fitted Work Bags,
Sachets, Ententeas, Silk and Wool Scarves,
Handsome Fur Sets.

Children's
Wool Jackets, Wool and Silk Shoes, Toilet Sets, etc.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912, the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS on MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 24th, 25th and 26th, instant.
Hongkong, 19th December, 1917. [1406]

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OFFICE.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THIS OFFICE will be entirely CLOSED on CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DAYS. On the other Holidays the Office will be open for all purposes as follows:—
MONDAY, the 24th December, 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, the 26th December, 9 A.M. to 12 Noon.
D. W. TRATMAN,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports. [1407]

NOTICE

THE OFFICES OF CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS for Kowloon and District will be CLOSED to PUBLIC BUSINESS on the 22nd instant, being the WINTER SOLSTICE, on CHRISTMAS DAY, and on 1st, 2nd and 3rd January next, being the NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.
A. H. HARRIS,
Commissioner of Chinese Customs.
York Buildings,
Hongkong, 19th December, 1917. [1408]

HONGKONG HOTEL.

TEA DANCES.

THE MANAGEMENT beg to announce that in future the Charge for TEA, including the PRIVILEGE OF DANCING, will be \$1.00 per head, 25% of which sum will be Donated by the Hotel Company to WAR CHARITIES.
J. H. TAGGART,
Manager. [1409]

THE EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

SENDERS of TELEGRAMS are hereby notified that from the 1st JANUARY, 1918, until further Notice, the Current Charges for Telegrams will be collected at the Rate of \$0.25 to equal Franc 1.00.
J. M. BECK,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, 19th December, 1917. [1410]

THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LTD.

HONGKONG STATION.

CURRENT CHARGES ON TELEGRAMS.
SENDERS of TELEGRAMS are hereby notified that from the 1st JANUARY, 1918, until further Notice, the Current Charges for Telegrams will be collected at the Rate of \$0.25 to equal Franc 1.00.
T. KRING,
Active Superintendent.
Hongkong, 19th December, 1917. [1411]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction (For Account of the CONDEMNED), TO-DAY (THURSDAY), the 20th December, 1917, commencing at 10 A.M., and continuing at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Lee House Street,
A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF TOYS, comprising:—
Equineaux Dolls, Teddy Bears and other animals—Dolls (large and small), Trains, Motor Cars, Cricket Sets, Soldiers, Forts, Gun Emplacements, &c.
Football, Boxing Gloves, Tea Sets, Furniture Sets, Games, Small Perambulators, Beds, Xmas Trees, Air Guns and Water Pistols, Fire Works, Crackers, &c., &c.
On view from Wednesday at 2 P.M.
Terms—Cash.
HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers. [1412]

NOTICE

AS from the 16th inst., Mr. J. G. GRAY has been authorized to Sign our Firm per Procuration.
SNOWMAN & CO.
[1400]

G. R. NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that in accordance with Regulations published under Government Notification No. 514 of 23rd November, 1917, commencing from 1st JANUARY next, all PRIVATE RICKSHAS have to be LICENSED at an Annual License fee of \$10 payable in advance. RICKSHA DRIVERS have to be Licensed at a fee of 30 cents Half-Yearly.
C. M. MESSER,
Captain Superintendent of Police.
Hongkong, 19th December, 1917. [1399]

INTIMATIONS

8% MILITARY LOAN.

REDEMPTION OF DRAWN BONDS.

THE Repayment of 8% Military Bonds drawn at the Third Drawing amounting to \$1,700,000 will commence on 10th December, 1917. The Repayment will be made in SILVER.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Peking, 20th November, 1917. [1391]

8% MILITARY LOAN.

REDEMPTION OF BONDS DRAWN AT THIRD DRAWING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Public that at the 3rd Drawing for Repayment of the 8 per cent. Military Loan Bonds held on 2nd October, 1917, Bonds to the value of \$1,700,000.00 have been drawn, which amount constitutes about one-fifth of the Bonds recognised by this Ministry. A List of Drawn Bonds is published in the Government Gazette and other newspapers.

Repayment of Bonds sold in Singapore, Batavia and the Philippine Islands will be made by the Branch Offices of the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION at these places. The BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai, will transfer funds for Repayment of Bonds sold through the Batavia, Soe Po San. In Cuba, Repayment will be made by the Changsha Guild upon surrender of the Bonds to the BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai: in Yokohama by the CHINESE CONSULATE-GENERAL; in Kiangsi by the KIANHSI BANK; in Fukien by the BANK OF CHINA; in Peking by the BANK OF CHINA. Besides the above cases, Repayment of Drawn Bonds will generally be made by the BANK OF CHINA, Shanghai.

Drawn Bonds when presented must be accompanied by all remaining Coupons, as all such Bonds are not entitled to any further interest after the payment of 11th Coupon. If all remaining Coupons (beginning with the 12th Coupon) are not presented together with the Drawn Bonds, then the total amount represented by these Coupons shall be deducted from the repayable principal.

Drawn Bonds must be presented for Repayment within five years from the date of Third Drawing, after which period of five years such Bonds shall become Null and Void.

\$1,000 each.		\$100 each.	
Nos.	Tickets.	Nos.	Tickets.
9-10	2	125-155	31
21-22	2	1011-1041	31
23-24	2	1073-1103	31
25-26	2	1135-1165	31
27-28	2	1259-1289	31
29-30	2	1584-1614	31
31-32	2	1696-1726	31
33-34	2	1790-1820	31
35-36	2	1864-1894	31
37-38	2	1958-1988	31
39-40	2	2052-2082	31
41-42	2	2146-2176	31
43-44	2	2240-2270	31
45-46	2	2334-2364	31
47-48	2	2428-2458	31
49-50	2	2522-2552	31
51-52	2	2616-2646	31
53-54	2	2710-2740	31
55-56	2	2804-2834	31
57-58	2	2898-2928	31
59-60	2	2992-3022	31
61-62	2	3086-3116	31
63-64	2	3180-3210	31
65-66	2	3274-3304	31
67-68	2	3368-3398	31
69-70	2	3462-3492	31
71-72	2	3556-3586	31
73-74	2	3650-3680	31
75-76	2	3744-3774	31
77-78	2	3838-3868	31
79-80	2	3932-3962	31
81-82	2	4026-4056	31
83-84	2	4120-4150	31
85-86	2	4214-4244	31
87-88	2	4308-4338	31
89-90	2	4402-4432	31
91-92	2	4496-4526	31
93-94	2	4590-4620	31
95-96	2	4684-4714	31
97-98	2	4778-4808	31
99-100	2	4872-4902	31
101-102	2	4966-4996	31
103-104	2	5060-5090	31
105-106	2	5154-5184	31
107-108	2	5248-5278	31
109-110	2	5342-5372	31
111-112	2	5436-5466	31
113-114	2	5530-5560	31
115-116	2	5624-5654	31
117-118	2	5718-5748	31
119-120	2	5812-5842	31
121-122	2	5906-5936	31
123-124	2	6000-6030	31
125-126	2	6094-6124	31
127-128	2	6188-6218	31
129-130	2	6282-6312	31
131-132	2	6376-6406	31
133-134	2	6470-6500	31
135-136	2	6564-6594	31
137-138	2	6658-6688	31
139-140	2	6752-6782	31
141-142	2	6846-6876	31
143-144	2	6940-6970	31
145-146	2	7034-7064	31
147-148	2	7128-7158	31
149-150	2	7222-7252	31
151-152	2	7316-7346	31
153-154	2	7410-7440	31
155-156	2	7504-7534	31
157-158	2	7598-7628	31
159-160	2	7692-7722	31
161-162	2	7786-7816	31
163-164	2	7880-7910	31
165-166	2	7974-8004	31
167-168	2	8068-8098	31
169-170	2	8162-8192	31
171-172	2	8256-8286	31
173-174	2	8350-8380	31
175-176	2	8444-8474	31
177-178	2	8538-8568	31
179-180	2	8632-8662	31
181-182	2	8726-8756	31
183-184	2	8820-8850	31
185-186	2	8914-8944	31
187-188	2	9008-9038	31
189-190	2	9102-9132	31
191-192	2	9196-9226	31
193-194	2	9290-9320	31
195-196	2	9384-9414	31
197-198	2	9478-9508	31
199-200	2	9572-9602	31
201-202	2	9666-9696	31
203-204	2	9760-9790	31
205-206	2	9854-9884	31
207-208	2	9948-9978	31
209-210	2	10042-10072	31
211-212	2	10136-10166	31
213-214	2	10230-10260	31
215-216	2	10324-10354	31
217-218	2	10418-10448	31
219-220	2	10512-10542	31
221-222	2	10606-10636	31
223-224	2	10700-10730	31
225-226	2	10794-10824	31
227-228	2	10888-10918	31
229-230	2	10982-11012	31
231-232	2	11076-11106	31
233-234	2	11170-11200	31
235-236	2	11264-11294	31
237-238	2	11358-11388	31
239-240	2	11452-11482	31
241-242	2	11546-11576	31
243-244	2	11640-11670	31
245-246	2	11734-11764	31
247-248	2	11828-11858	31
249-250	2	11922-11952	31
251-252	2	12016-12046	31
253-254	2	12110-12140	31
255-256	2	12204-12234	31
257-258	2	12298-12328	31
259-260	2	12392-12422	31
261-262	2	12486-12516	31
263-264	2	12580-12610	31
265-266	2	12674-12704	31
267-268	2	12768-12798	31
269-270	2	12862-12892	31
271-272	2	12956-12986	31
273-274	2	13050-13080	31
275-276	2	13144-13174	31
277-278	2	13238-13268	31
279-280	2	13332-13362	31
281-282	2	13426-13456	31
283-284	2	13520-13550	31
285-286	2	13614-13644	31
287-288	2	13708-13738	31
289-290	2	13802-13832	31
291-292	2	13896-13926	31
293-294	2	13990-14020	31
295-296	2	14084-14114	31
297-298	2	14178-14208	31
299-300	2	14272-14302	31
301-302	2	14366-14396	31
303-304	2	14460-14490	31
305-306	2	14554-14584	31
307-308	2	14648-14678	31
309-310	2	14742-14772	31
311-312	2	14836-14866	31
313-314	2	14930-14960	31
315-316	2	15024-15054	31
317-318	2	15118-15148	31
319-320	2	15212-15242	31
321-322	2	15306-15336	31
323-324	2	15400-15430	31
325-326	2	15494-15524	31
327-328	2	15588-15618	31
329-330	2	15682-15712	31
331-332	2	15776-15806	31
333-334	2	15870-15900	31
335-336	2	15964-15994	31
337-338	2	16058-16088	31
339-340	2	16152-16182	31
341-342	2	16246-16276	31
343-344	2	16340-16370	31
345-346	2	16434-16464	31
347-348	2	16528-16558	31
349-350	2	16622-16652	31
351-352	2	16716-16746	31
353-354	2	16810-16840	31
355-356	2	16904-16934	31
357-358	2	17000-17030	31
359-360	2	17094-17124	31
361-362	2	17188-17218	31
363-364	2	17282-17312	31
365-366	2	17376-17406	31
367-368	2	17470-17500	31
369-370	2	17564-17594	31
371-372	2	17658-17688	31
373-374	2	17752-17782	31
375-376	2	17846-17876	31
377-378	2	17940-17970	31
379-380	2	18034-18064	31
381-382	2	18128-18158	31
383-384	2	18222-18252	31
385-386	2	18316-18346	31
387-388	2	18410-18440	31
389-390	2	18504-18534	31
391-392	2	18598-18628	31
393-394	2	18692-18722	31
395-396	2	18786-18816	31
397-398	2	18880-18910	31
399-400	2	18974-19004	31
401-402	2	19068-19098	31
403-404	2	19162-19192	31
405-406	2	19256-19286	31
407-408	2	19350-19380	31
409-410	2	19444-19474	31
411-412	2	19538-19568	31
413-414	2	19632-19662	31
415-416	2	19726-19756	31
417-418	2	19820-19850	31
419-420	2	19914-19944	31
421-422	2	20008-20038	31
423-424	2	20102-20132	31
425-426	2	20196-20226	31
427-428	2	20290-20320	31
429-430	2	20384-20414	31
431-432	2	20478-20508	31
433-434	2	20572-20602	31
435-436	2	20666-20696	31</

THE WAR.

TERMS OF RUSSO-GERMAN ARMISTICE.

INTERCOURSE PERMISSIBLE.

CANADA ENDORSES CONSCRIPTION.

VATICAN AND TURKEY'S ALLIES.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH FRONT.

QUIET.

LONDON, December 18th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig states there is nothing to report.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE ATTACK ON TRAWLERS

THE INQUEST.

LONDON, December 18th.

At the inquest held at a North-Eastern port on three of the crew of one of the trawlers mentioned by Dr. Macnamara in the House of Commons in yesterday's message, the skipper, in testifying, said that the trawler, which was unarmed, was fishing with five other trawlers. When he heard gunfire, he went on deck and saw three destroyers which were stationary two hundred yards distant firing their hardest. He alone was unharmed. The destroyers steamed off without offering assistance. Subsequently a British destroyer came up and rescued the survivors.

THE DESTROYED CONVOY.

VESSEL CUT IN TWO.

LONDON, December 18th.

At the inquest held at a North-Eastern port on five Swedes belonging to a Swedish steamer torpedoed at four o'clock in the morning on the 12th inst. while in the convoy, the survivors said that a torpedo cut their vessel in two. Sixteen of the crew of twenty were killed or missing. All their boats were smashed. The survivors remained on board for four hours till they were rescued by a British destroyer. The two halves of the vessel were towed in with the boats.

THE CASUALTIES.

Sir Eric Geddes, in continuing his announcement in the House of Commons yesterday, stated:—

The entire crew of twelve of one of the trawlers were saved in their own boat.

The casualties on the *Pelew* were one officer and three men killed and two seriously wounded.

The information regarding the survivors of the *Partridge* is incomplete, but the British Naval Attaché in Holland has telegraphed that it is reported from Kiel that three officers and 21 men belonging to the *Partridge* and 28 men belonging to the trawlers had been brought there, and that ten were wounded.

PRESS COMMENT.

The *Daily Telegraph* says that the destruction of the convoy further demonstrates the urgency of the man-power problem, a problem not entirely for the Army, but for the Navy, which is handicapped by an insufficiency of destroyers and other small craft, owing to the shortage of labour and steel.

The *Daily News* says that the two incidents are calculated to convert the disquiet regarding the capacity of the Admiralty into positive anxiety.

The *Daily Mail* asks why the finding of the court-martial into the last North Sea affair has not been published.

The *Daily Chronicle* points to the magnificent work of the Fleet in many waters and to the small number of disasters, but says a serious feature is the painful reflection cast upon the administrative efficiency of the Grand Fleet, and demands that a court of inquiry be appointed by the Admiralty from the outside, and not by the Commander-in-Chief.

The *Times* says that much more explanation is required than of the raid of November 16th, because the wireless, apparently, was not destroyed, and the attack was made at noon. "We would be glad to know if sufficient use is made of aircraft scouting."

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

TEXT OF RUSSO-GERMAN ARMISTICE.

LONDON, December 18th.

The text of the Armistice has been published in Vienna. It extends from noon of December 17th to noon January 14th, and applies to the Russian and Turkish theatres in Asia. The troops at present on these fronts will not be strengthened or transferred unless the transfers were already begun at the time of signature.

The treaty prescribes conditions for the development of fraternisation. Intercourse is permissible between sunrise and sunset at certain places, where not more than 25 persons unarmed may assemble simultaneously and exchange newspapers and letters. The sale of goods is permitted.

The Armistice applies to Naval and Aerial forces, the Black Sea and the Baltic. Attacks on merchantmen by warships will cease as far as possible. The Russian Government undertakes to guarantee that the naval forces of the *Entente* in these waters will behave similarly to the Russians. Seven Armistice Commissions will meet at Riga, Divinsk, Brestlitovsk, Berdichev, Kolozvar, Pecsani and Odessa to carry out the details.

An additional clause provides for the early military withdrawal from Persia, "according to the principle of freedom and independence of a neutral Persia."

ELECTIONS IN CANADA.

TRIUMPH FOR UNION GOVERNMENT.

OTTAWA, December 18th.

Sir Robert Borden's Union Government, which went to the country for endorsement on the Conscription Act, has been triumphantly re-elected.

The returns give the Government 128 and the Opposition 67, with results not yet received 20.

EARLIER CABLES.

OTTAWA, December 18th.

Out of 63 seats in Quebec, the Government carried only three, namely, in the English-speaking districts in Montreal. The maritime provinces are divided almost evenly. Ontario and the western provinces strongly supported the Government. Toronto and York county voted for the Government by sweeping majorities. It is expected that the Government's majority will be increased when the overseas soldiers' vote is counted, as it will doubtless reverse the result in several constituencies where the opposition candidates at present have small majorities.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was defeated at Ottawa, but was overwhelmingly elected in Quebec East.

All the Ministers were re-elected, except two representing Quebec constituencies.

AMERICA AND LIQUOR PROHIBITION.

WASHINGTON, December 18th.

The House of Representatives has adopted the Prohibition Resolution by 292 votes to 122.

LATEST CABLES.

"FOR VALOUR."

DEEDS OF EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM.

LONDON, December 18th.

The *Gazette* contains the names of nine new recipients of the Victoria Cross, four of whom were killed. The heroes include two Canadians and one Australian. The deeds recorded, as usual, show extraordinary heroism; indeed, the awards are mostly for several distinct acts of such heroism. The following examples are typical:—

Major ALEXANDER LAFONE, late Yeomanry.—For seven hours in semi-darkness he held a position against heavy shelling and cavalry charges. Ultimately, all his men except three were hit. He ordered those who could walk to move slightly to the rear. Then he continued the most heroic resistance. When finally surrounded and charged by the enemy he stepped into the open and continued to fight until mortally wounded, thus carrying out his orders to hold the position at all costs.

Second Lieut. CLEMENT ROBERTSON, Tank Corps.—Knowing the risk of missing his way, he led his men on foot over ground heavily ploughed up by shellfire in face of heavy shelling, machine-gunning and rifle-firing towards the objective, although he must have known his action would almost inevitably cost him his life. He was killed after reaching the first objective.

Corporal WILLIAM CLAMP, late York-shires.—When the advance was checked by intense machine-gun fire from concrete blockhouses and snipers in ruined buildings, Clamp dashed forward with two men against the largest blockhouse. His companions were knocked out, upon which he immediately collected more bombs and, calling upon other two men to follow him, he again rushed forward. He was the first to reach the blockhouse, and he killed many of its occupants. He then entered and brought out a machine-gun and twenty prisoners, whom he brought back under heavy fire from snipers. He again went forward, encouraging and cheering his men, and succeeded in rushing several snipers' posts. He was finally killed by a sniper. His courage and self-sacrifice were magnificent, relieving what undoubtedly was a very critical situation.

EARLIER CABLES.

CONSUMERS' COUNCIL ESTABLISHED.

LONDON, December 17th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Clynes, representing the Food Controller, announced the establishment of a Consumers' Council at the Food Ministry, with representatives of all the working classes, including women.

The Council will protect the interests of consumers as regards prices and other food problems.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

UKRAINIAN SEIZURE.

PETROGRAD, December 18th.

A telegram from Kiev states that during the disarmament of the Maximilian units the Ukrainian troops seized 72 guns, 330 machine-guns and 5,000,000 cartridges.

UKRAINIANS IGNORE GOVERNMENT.

The Ukrainian Diet has issued a declaration refusing to recognise the People's Commission as the Government of the whole Russian Republic.

POPE CONDEMNS TURKEY'S ALLIES.

ROME, December 18th.

The *Messenger* states that the Pope is communicating with the Bishops in Belgium countries, stating that the Vatican will condemn any Christian country assisting the Turks in an attempt to reconquer Jerusalem.

OBITUARY.

MRS. GARRETT ANDERSON.

LONDON, December 18th.

The death is announced of Mrs. Garrett Anderson, the first woman doctor and woman mayor.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, December 17th.

In the silver market there is nothing doing.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHINESE TROOPS FOR EUROPE.

PEKING, December 18th.

A Cabinet meeting has decided that Tuan Chi-jui (the ex-Premier) shall be placed in command of Chinese troops for Europe.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, December 18th.

NORTHERN RAID ON SWATOW.—A message from Shanghai states that the Peking Government has sent about 10 gunboats from the Northern ports to Fukien. Large bodies of Northerners were also landed in Fukien a few days ago, and it is said that Swatow will again be attacked by the Northerners with naval assistance.

GENERAL LUNG.—General Lung Chai-kong has sent a telegram to the authorities of the two Kwongs demanding the cancellation of the declaration of independence. Lung also stated that he will lead an army to inspect various places, and has asked the authorities not to misunderstand his action.

THE TUCHUN.—The Tuchun, Mok Wing-sun, has ordered troops to Yeung-Kong to prevent General Lung's soldiers from coming into the Province. It is reported that the Tuchun will go to Kwangsi to consult with General Luk upon military affairs. The Tuchunship will be temporarily handed to the Civil Governor, Li Yew-hon.

ALSACE STRIPPED.

PEOPLE REMOVED AND PROPERTY CONFISCATED.

Mr. Henry Wood, special correspondent of the United Press of America, with the French armies, writes:—

As fast as German thoroughness can accomplish it, Alsace and Lorraine are being systematically stripped, not only of their live population, but of all native-owned industries, capital, and property, in order that with the end of the war the two provinces may consist of empty virgin territory open to German colonization.

With the outbreak of the war, Germany's first problem in the two provinces was that of the male inhabitants of military age who succeeded in escaping into Allied or neutral countries. A total of 40,000 have succeeded in thus avoiding service in the German army. The police arrested every one whose name was on their "black lists"—journalists, former soldiers in the French army, politicians, members of French societies; in fact, every one known to have, or suspected of having sympathy for, France. Those arrested were confined in a body in the forests of Ehrenbreitstein. Many are still there, and others have been dispersed and interned in various German cities.

Simultaneously Germany created a new crime for the inhabitants of the two provinces—that of entertaining sentiments hostile to Germany. Special courts-martial were instituted to try these cases, and arrests, trials, and condemnations have followed ever since. Up to date these special courts-martial have imposed over 4,000 years of imprisonment. The prisons of Colmar, Mulhouse, Strasbourg, Metz, and other cities are so filled with the victims that the German military authorities refer to each prison as an "Hotel de France."

No pretext has ever been overlooked for evacuating the general population into Germany. Villages near the front or near the theatre of contemplated military actions are being constantly evacuated. When mills, factories, and other industries are forced to close down all workmen are immediately sent to similar mills and factories in the interior of Germany. The net result is that the population is now almost as badly dispersed as are the Armenians in Turkey.

During the early part of the war all the mills and factories were submitted to a requisition of the most rigorous nature. At first only the stocks and material of prime necessity were taken. Later all copper was requisitioned, then the belts, and finally all the machinery itself.

PROPERTY WORKS.—200,000,000. Owing to the presence of old French families in the two provinces and of marriages of inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine with French citizens, a great amount of property in the two provinces is owned in all or in part by French people. The Strasbourg *Post* estimates the value of French property in Alsace and Lorraine at 200,000,000. Besides this an immense amount of capital is invested in textile factories and glass, pottery, gas, and other industries. An open campaign has been begun for seizing all these properties.

On March 4th, 1917, the German Government decreed the liquidation of all French-owned concerns or branch houses. The great weaving factories of Charles Mieg & Co., at Mulhouse, the salt industries of Dieuze, and the glass and crystal works of Baccarat were thus liquidated, the concerns passing into German hands. A list has just been published of 250 other concerns that will be disposed of similarly, while the latest liquidation being urged in the German Press is that of the famous Wendel Steel Mills, one of the largest in the world.

According to reliable information that reaches France by way of Switzerland, Alsace and Lorraine stand stripped today to the very bone.

YPRES THREE YEARS AGO.

THE DAY OF OUR FATE.

A German historian has just been told by the Kaiser to write his third history of the Marne in accordance with the views of the all Highest, since the first version excited the wrath of Falkenhayn and the second that of Von Moltke, each of whom has been using hard words against the other on the point of the veracity of the information which was provided for the volumes.

Major A. Corbett-Smith courts no denial from contemporary authority nor from future analyst in his picturesque record of "The Marne—And After." He leaves the apportionment of credit of the battle which turned the tide of the Allies' fortunes and the discussion of the triumphant tactics of the French to those who comment on the official documents which are not yet available. His purpose is to give a vivid picture of the part played by the small British Army in the Marne Battle, in the subsequent advance to the Aisne and in the move to Flanders, and he does it admirably in the course of this volume which is just issued from the house of Cassell.

At this moment, when the enemy is passing through new phases of defeat before Ypres, where the Old Army so gloriously foiled him three years ago to the month, it is of absorbing interest to read Major Corbett-Smith's remarkable account of the first defence of the British bastion. It was that defence which permits of the victories of to-day.

When the enemy purpose to turn every available gun of an overwhelming strength upon the handful of men who dared to oppose his will, there happened an event as dramatic and momentous, surely, as any in the war.

To realize the significance of it you must first bear carefully in mind all that your imagination can picture of this desperate battle against odds; and then understand that a field battery of six guns, firing on an average 700 shells per day, was even then firing all too little for the needs of the moment. The order was issued that every field gun in the Force must be placed on a daily allowance of ten shells only. In other words, a battery was allowed each day 60 shells to fire when 700 was not sufficient.

THE SHELL RATION.—What the gunners said and what the infantry thought I leave you to guess. But I would also have you think of the high moral courage of the Commander-in-Chief who, upon the urgent representation of the Q.M.G. (Sir William Robertson), dared to issue such an order at one of the most critical moments of the world's history.

To put the matter very briefly, there were no more shells for the howitzers and eighteen-pounders in France, and the reserve at home was practically exhausted. It is probably an exaggeration to say that had we gone on firing at the old rate for another fortnight we should have had to "cease fire" altogether.

The courage of Sir John French's decision (if I may venture the comment) seems on a par with the one already noted when he dared to extend his line still farther north instead of supporting the 7th Division. By issuing the order about the shells he was able to build up at least something of a reserve to be used when any battery was faced with some supreme crisis. Though the price was very very heavy, the situation was saved. Had he not dared to pay the price and to place once again his perfect trust in his indomitable infantry and cavalry, who shall say what the end might have been?

And it is well that the world should hear of this, for surely it throws another and a still stronger light upon the heroism of the first Seven Divisions during those fateful days. And will the German Staff ever dare to tell the German people how their armies could not break through even then? I think not.

All down the line the battle was fought this way and that, writes Major Corbett-Smith when he gets to grips with the great crisis in the battle. "Here is a general in command of two companies of infantry; here a corporal acting as a battery commander—a battery of two guns. There is a junior subaltern leading his battalion in a desperate charge—a battalion of a hundred men. Every man is in. Here are cooks, grocers, messengers, servants from a German battery living up with picks and shovels, branches of trees, or bare fists. Why, in Heaven's name! To hold up and repulse half an advancing brigade."

"God of battles, was ever a battle like this in the world before?" "The slaughter of it all seems to pass human understanding. You hear of one single British company surrounded by the enemy and the Germans did not even know it was there in the midst of them. And you hear of those few men within five minutes annihilating a German battalion, accounting for more than 600 of the strength. And still the enemy pour their masses into the battle."

THE CRITICAL MOMENT.—From two to three o'clock on the third day the suspense was unbearable. It was the most critical moment in the whole battle, indeed, since Mons, Sir John French has said.

"You may picture those two men, the Field-Marshal and the General standing quietly by the great map spread on the table of the battered chateau; you see the Staff going quietly about their work; and if the strain is telling you must need look close into the eyes to detect it. There is nothing more to be done. Not even may any unit be withdrawn and thrust into another corner of the line. If the breach is made there can be no repairing. The sea-coast and ports will be lost to us."

The day was won, the crisis was safely passed. But the cost of it in human lives and suffering had been a terrible one. The flower of Britain's chivalry, her knights and yeomen, had perished. The Old Regular Army had fought its last fight—the last, the greatest of all. And it was in the noblest cause for which Britain has ever sent forth her sons.

Of the 7th Division, less than one month before there had sailed from England 400 officers. Forty-four returned. Their men had numbered 12,000. There were left 2,300.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

MISTRESS COUSIN SAM.

[BY ALICE J. WHITMORE.]

I read the other day an amusing instance which may be taken as typical of what is happening to many American women. It was the case of a young woman, obviously of the highest caste in New York society, a girl of wealth and leisure who had probably never done a single thing with her hands except to get them manicured and massaged.

She was in soldier's uniform, and she had dismissed her car with its footman and chauffeur at the door of the quarters of the National League for Women's Service. There an older woman in similar uniform thus accosted her:—"Lieutenant—Your face is powdered and your breath smells of cigarettes. Go upstairs and wash off your face and rinse out your mouth. We can't have that kind of silliness disgracing our battalion!"—and one of the first orders which this pampered child of luxury cheerfully obeyed was to get down beneath a motor car and oil the cog! Of course our best bred British women have done the same sort of thing from the word "go," but we must remember that we are an older nation.

In consequence we do not stand so greatly in fear of losing caste, and the pampered New Yorker is often more badly pampered than her British cousin in the same position. This war is going to break down caste and rebuke luxury among American women as it has done already to some extent with us. The activities of the American women are too numerous to describe in detail, but there is the great Woman's Committee of the United States Council of National Defence, headed by Mrs. Anna Howard Shaw. On the official registration card women of almost any colour or race may enrol themselves for national service of various descriptions, from transport service in the air or on the sea down to the humble but not less important service of "caring for children," or "sharing a home with widow or children," both of which are officially tabulated among the wider activities.

Rifle brigades are being formed in the Home Defence Clubs, for the American women realise, as we have realised, that she must be prepared to depend upon herself for protection should occasion arise.

The food question is being tackled with energy and efficiency and in a spirit that leaves no doubt as to the result. The leaders of American society have replied to the President's challenge:—"We are on the job, Mr. President!" And they are setting the fashion of simplicity and economy in every department of domestic life. We find the prevailing spirit voiced in the confession of a well-known society lady, who declares that "the well-to-do American has especially been staggering under the complexities of daily life. This imperative demand for simplification gives us the chance to scrap the non-essentials." Anybody who knows the elaborate table display common in America will understand this.

A prominent lady of Louisiana gives in a phrase the spirit which obtains generally among the women when she says:—"We women of Louisiana must do it!"

The same thoroughness and method is to be observed in Red Cross organisation, which includes every possible form of service, not forgetting that valuable branch of dietetics which perhaps in this country we do not sufficiently emphasise.

The woman in America who signs the Hoover Pledge—which is the national food pledge—is entitled to wear a special uniform, a fetching affair of blue chambray with collar and cuffs of white pique and a cap of white lawn decorated with the badge which is worn also on the arm. There are at least four separate uniforms for Red Cross work—all very smart and quite different from each other. These are respectively for the Supply Corps, the Clerical Corps, the Refreshment Corps and the Motor Corps.

Of course the American woman has the tremendous advantage of being able to profit by our experience, and many of her activities are exactly on the lines of ours with the added results of our combined experience. There are gifts for the man at the front. There is social effort of all kinds, notably the work of the Y.W.C.A. and the work done by individual households in offering hospitality to soldiers. What are known as "Mother's Camps" are being organised by club women, and it is these camps there will be motherly women to teach the boys of the new army to sew on buttons, to mend their socks and clothes, and to whom the boys may go for advice and information.

The New York University in its Summer School held during July and August, concentrated on the special kind of training needed to prepare women to take the places of men released for the front, and in every direction Mistress Cousin Sam is "making good." She is proving herself an ally thoroughly worthy of the great cause to which she is dedicated.

"We thought," said a German officer, "that you had four Army Corps against us there."

"Forty thousand men is the loss which they say the British suffered. Of the Germans there fell perhaps 250,000."

"That it was a victory, and a decisive victory for our arms there can surely be no doubt. The Germans set out to achieve a definite object; they failed. The British determined to defeat that scheme; they succeeded. How the enemy faltered, though mauling against the defenders such overwhelming strength, we cannot say."

Major Corbett-Smith has added to the world's knowledge—which is all too little of the great battle which will give to Ypres a name emblematic for ever in the pages of history. His splendid account of the glorious defeat of the flower of the German Army supports the contention of Lord Selborne, who said the other day that "the 31st October, 1914, was the day of our fate, and not only of our Empire but of the whole world."

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be glad to tell the enemy when I say that the British Fleet in its northern base lies behind no shore defences, but relies on its own strength alone. (Cheers.) There are those in this country, and possibly in this House, who do not appreciate the activities of his Majesty's Navy in home waters, who think that it lies in its bases, like the High Seas Fleet, with the North Sea in between. I speak from the intimate knowledge I have of the day-to-day state of the North Sea, and I can state with the fullest confidence to the House that the North Sea is a very different place from what it is represented to be from north to south, and east to west, by the British Navy. (Cheers.)

During a recent month the mileage steamed by his Majesty's battleships, cruisers, and destroyers alone, mounted to 1,000,000 ship miles in home waters. In addition to this there is the ceaseless patrol of the Naval Auxiliary Forces, amounting to well over 6,000,000 ship miles in home waters in the same month. (Cheers.) Over and above this we have the unending vigilance by warships and all craft of his Majesty's Navy in every part of the world. (Cheers.) As one can see from the way through that work example only of how thorough that work is, I can state that during a recent month the blockading squadrons performed in the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean, and almost incredible feat of intercepting and examining every single merchant ship trading with neutral countries. They missed not one. (Cheers.) The nation's demands made upon the Royal Navy have been great, and with so little loss, hardly the country has a feel sure, hardly the nation has a feel sure, that the Royal Navy has accomplished its task. The personnel of the fleet before the outbreak of war was 146,000; to-day it is 390,000. In this is included the Royal Naval Air Service, which has alone increased from 700 to 41,000.

ROYAL NAVAL AIR SERVICE.

The duties of the Royal Naval Air Service are varied of great value, and of absorbing interest. Its great efficiency and gallantry in France are occasionally brought to public notice by reports of bombing expeditions and otherwise. But any statement on the Navy would be incomplete without a tribute to the Royal Naval Air Service in operations over the sea. They are the terror of the submarine, and during a month the aircraft patrol round the coast alone is more than five times the circumference of the earth. I think it may interest the House and instruct the public if I give some indication of what the Royal Naval Air Service alone has done in bombing behind the enemy lines in France.

During September alone sixty-four raids were carried out on dockyards, naval depots, enemy aerodromes, and other objects of naval and military importance in Flanders behind the enemy lines. No less than 2,736 bombs were dropped by the Royal Naval Air Service alone, totalling eighty-five tons of explosives.

The figures for October are not yet completely tabulated, but are still greater. The submarine service of the Royal Navy would call for more time than I can at present ask the House to give me. Their intrepid patrol of the far waters of the North Sea is invaluable. The romance of one submarine hunting another is central to the war. It is permissible to give details of those exploits. We hear little of their doings, but their ceaseless work contributes largely to the practical immunity of our shores. (Cheers.)

Before closing this statement of naval activities I would wish to mention the work of the mine-sweepers and mine-layers and of their gallant crews, largely recruited from our hardy fishermen. (Cheers.) Both those duties may be offensive as well as defensive. Is it not an offensive measure to lay mines at night in the tortuous channels of the enemy mine-fields with the possibility of attack from his patrol craft or discovery and bombardment from his land guns? Similarly, is it not an offensive measure for the mine-sweepers to go into the enemy mine-fields, which are protected, to sweep a passage as they have done to enable their comrades of the submarine or light surface craft to follow in the next night? The late Prime Minister once said in a speech which he made on the Fleet, that naval operations are of necessity conducted in the twilight. It is that very twilight which keeps the public, and I regret to say this House, in partial ignorance of their work. In a war such as this which has continued so long, and which will still continue long, during which the development of modern weapons of war has been so great, it is inevitable that uninformed criticism, however honest of intention, should do scant justice to those men who day by day are fighting the country's battles, and bearing the great responsibility of conducting the great campaign by sea. (Hear, hear.)

UNFAIR CRITICISM.

Referring to unfair criticisms of distinguished officers, Sir Eric said:—There is a common impression, based again upon lack of knowledge—but it is none the less harmful—that the Board of Admiralty is composed of a lot of obsolete old gentlemen who know little or nothing of war in its modern form, and who resist in principle suggestions which come forward from those who are fighting the country's battles at sea. There are, as I have stated, eight Sea Lords. Of those only one has not been at sea on active service during the war. He is a distinguished officer, and his very great merit and value to the Admiralty are known full well, not only to myself and to his colleagues on the Board, but to all my distinguished predecessors during the war. One chief of the naval members of the Board has not been at sea, but he has had active charge during the war of aerial operations and training, and is employed in that capacity. The remaining six Sea Lords have all come from the Grand Fleet within the last twelve months with one exception, and that officer's service at sea has been most distinguished in an Eastern command, where he was in charge of naval operations during the war. I think it well to give this information to those who are unfairly saying, "Why do they not get men from the Grand Fleet with actual war experience?" I have given the answer. I now come to the flag officers and captains on the active service list in divisions of the Naval War Staff. There are of these twenty-two in all. Of these twenty-two, one captain has not served at sea during the war. Three rear-admirals have all served in the Grand Fleet, and have all served in the Grand Fleet. (Continued at foot of next column.)

BRITISH CASUALTIES

TOTALS FOR OCTOBER.

Following are the details of the losses given under the principal headings in the War Office casualty lists issued for October. The lists include casualties reported from all points at which our armies are engaged:

	Officers.	Men.
Killed	1,200	10,914
Accidentally Killed	9	49
Died of Wounds	380	4,508
Died	87	820
Wounded	4,247	60,284
Wounded and Missing	29	309
Wounded and prisoners of war	32	56
Missing, believed killed	1	8
Wounded & Missing, believed killed	2	1
Missing, believed wounded	1	3
Missing, believed drowned	1	3
Missing, believed prisoners of war	—	2
Died as prisoner of war	1	363
Prisoners of war	282	3,463
Missing	—	—

From these must be deducted the following: Killed, reported killed, afterwards reported not killed, wounded or missing, afterwards reported not killed, wounded or missing, 16 571. This leaves the totals as follows:

	Officers.	Men.
Killed	6,205	80,103
The figures for June, July, August, and September respectively were:		
Officers	3,601	84,007
Men	2,480	68,888
Officers	5,384	52,404
Men	2,538	109,208

From the Admiralty during the past month have been issued lists of casualties suffered by officers and men and of these the details are:

	Officers.	Men.
Killed	35	140
Died of Wounds	3	32
Died	11	127
Accidentally drowned	1	1
Accidentally killed	4	1
Died of injuries	3	7
Died of accidental injuries	38	278
Wounded	4	1
Injured	11	—
Accidentally injured	7	—
Missing, believed killed	2	—
Missing	16	115
Died while prisoners of war	—	3
Died from effects of immersion	—	1
Prisoners of war	3	4
Died while interned in Holland	—	1
Previously reported wounded, afterwards reported not wounded	—	1
Previously reported missing, afterwards reported not missing	—	1
Totals	137	1,019

and six captains have served at sea with other forces, but not in the Grand Fleet.

Further comment, I think, unnecessary. I have endeavoured to show that the British Navy retains its old traditions of seeking to bring the enemy fleet to action, of keeping open the trade routes, and protecting the commerce of ourselves and Allies. The frontiers of England are still the coast of the enemy. When the day comes that the enemy gives the British Navy what it asks, namely, battle, I do not doubt that in strategy, tactics, and individual courage the British Navy will by its action uphold its great traditions of which it and the country are so justly proud. (Cheers.) But whatever controversy there may be, and however certain faction and I am glad to believe that it is a small faction, may hold the view that the Navy should commit itself to ventures, which every responsible naval authority condemns—(cheers)—there can be no difference of opinion upon the one glorious fact, that by every action since the beginning of the war—and I feel more than confident by every action until the end of the war—the officers and men of the Royal Navy have proved themselves, and will continue to prove themselves, worthy upholders of the great traditions of their service. (Loud cheers.)

"CRUDE AND EPHEMERAL FANCIES"

Mr. Asquith: The right hon. gentleman has quoted an expression of mine made two years ago in addressing the Grand Fleet, when I told them that their operations were to a large extent carried on in the twilight. There is a certain class of critics, ignorant, ill-informed, who seem to hold it a matter of legitimate complaint against the Navy that their actions are not carried on in the twilight. (Cheers and laughter.) Why do you not do a little more in the way of splashing and spluttering about the world? That is not the function of the Navy. What the Navy ought to do is what the Navy is doing, and has done since the beginning of this war—maintaining the inviolability of our coasts, sweeping the high seas, on which not a single German merchantman is now to be found, preserving our commerce, establishing and maintaining the blockade of the enemy's supplies, and a ceaseless, unobtrusive, but effective vigilance in maintaining in the only real sense of the word the command of the seas. I heartily congratulate the right hon. gentleman upon the admirable lucidity and cogency with which he has demolished the crude and ephemeral fancies of the hour. (Cheers.)

Mr. G. Lambert said that Sir E. Geddes was to be envied, as he had made a speech which had carried the House almost off its legs. Could the First Lord himself, the submarine menace was being mastered when in two days last week 65,000 tons of shipping were announced as being lost?

Mr. Houston said the standard ships were being built on absolutely obsolete lines. It was about time that someone spoke out and called the attention of the country to the way the people had been misled with optimistic and pleasant speeches.

Mr. Holt said he was unable to accept the figures of the First Lord of the Admiralty as to the number of mercantile vessels lost. When considering plans for the replacement of lost tonnage the Government should not overlook the question of the probability and usefulness of the proposed new vessels after the war was over.

THE INVASION OF ITALY.

A WINTER CAMPAIGN.

ITALY AND FLANDERS.

[BY "THE TIMES" MILITARY CORRESPONDENT.]

The fact that General von Below, with a body of German troops, has burst through the Julian front, and that Austrian columns have found other badly defended points on the Carnic Alps, is certainly very unfortunate, and we have no need to minimize the gravity of the event. Italy's eastern frontier is temporarily lost, and the defence of the country is imperilled.

But, assuming, as we must, that we can count on the recovery of the Italian front upon one or other of the very defensible lines upon which they can fall back, there is a little silver lining to the Julian cloud. The season approaches when operations in France and Flanders usually die down, as they die down in the Alps, but in the Italian plains there is nothing to prevent fighting all through the winter, and it is an advantage to the side with the greatest military resources, both actual and potential, to continue the war of attrition through the winter. We should probably not have had the advantage of the participation of the Italians in this winter campaign had it not been for this German stroke.

THE WESTERN FRONT IS ONE.

The idea that the Italian theatre is not part of the Western front is contrary to fact, and to geographical realities. This has been recognized by the constant conferences of British, French, and Italian Commanders and Staffs, and by the arrangements which we naturally assume to have followed for mutual defence. On the whole of the Western front the Allies can aid each other without involving transport by sea, and there is nothing simpler than for them to afford each other such aid. The presence of French and British heavy guns in Italy, during General Cadorna's last offensive, testified better than words to the acceptance by all the Western General Staffs of the principle of cordial co-operation.

Such co-operation can, if necessary, extend to the sea-front. Austria is vulnerable in the Adriatic if a naval campaign be waged there with vigour; and if any important part of Venetia falls temporarily into Austro-German hands, then the surface open to naval pressure is extended. The Allied navy is to force the pace in this winter war by sea and land, not with little packets of Allied troops and ships, but with important forces, which will carry on the war with high-handed vigour until the enemy has had enough of it.

For every German division withdrawn from France to Italy, we and our good friends the French and Americans can afford to send more, and every German and Austrian division taken from the Russo-Bulgarian front makes the task of our Eastern Allies the easier. We have good positions now in France and Flanders, and also a good superiority of men and guns. Therefore, while winter temporarily suspends the Flanders fighting, we can, without any undue risk, make things lively in Italy during the winter. The Allied Navies have even a greater preponderance, and a smart seaman with the necessary force and backing can effect much more in the Adriatic than has yet been attempted there.

The temporary relaxation of the Austro-German attack upon Cadorna's Armies is due to influences which must be understood. There is fairly good railway communication behind the Armies of von Below and Boroevic, but westward of Tolmezzo there is none. To extract all the marching columns from the mountains and re-sort them; to build bridges and repair railways; and to bring up fresh supplies of food and ammunition, is a very considerable task in such a country, and in the interval the Italian Armies have time allowed to them for recuperation. Our confidence in General Cadorna is entirely unchanged. We know that it was not his leading, but the temporary weakening of the will of his troops to conquer, that caused this unfortunate retreat, and we regard it as one more proof of the firmness of mind and of the sound judgment of the Italian Commander-in-Chief that he should have taken his decision as promptly as he did.

A DUTY OF ITALY.

We must not, even in an hour of natural disappointment, imagine that the Italian Army has shown its true form in this regrettable affair. It is impossible to suppose that the Italian troops, who have displayed such remarkable dash and endurance during the war, can have made a retreat to the Austro-Germans of some of the strongest position on the Julian and Carnic fronts unless some malevolent propaganda had been at work among them. Such propaganda we know there has been, and we know the German and other sources whence it springs. The Allied Governments owe a duty to their Italian Ally and are prepared to fulfil it, but they also owe a duty to their own troops, and must make sure, before they engage them deeply, that the new Italian Government will give explicit assurances that any powers which General Cadorna requires for suppressing the German and other agents who have been tampering with the loyalty of the Army are immediately accorded to him.

ITALY AND FLANDERS.

We must not run away with the idea that we propose to abandon our plan of campaign in the West. The Italian sector of the Western front must remain subordinate and secondary. Only a few German divisions are there; and one reason why they are there is to tempt us to abandon the substance for the shadow, and to relax our deadly grip in Flanders. We need not, on that account, alter our determination to pursue our plans in Flanders, and in France, to the logical conclusion at the right moment.

History of China's Railways

From the Beginning in the '60's
Down to 1916, Accompanying

An Up-to-Date Railway Map

THE portion of the Communications Section of the GAZETTEER dealing with China's Railways is in itself a book of over 40,000 words, and comprises another important phase of this many-sided work. It opens with a running historical narrative that makes extremely interesting reading.

Practically all the information known about China's Railways is given in this section, the matter having been edited by a well-known authority. First of all, there is an up-to-date Railway Map, showing railways in operation, under construction, surveyed and projected routes—a map that will be of the utmost value after the war when China will have resumed construction of these steel arteries of trade that must in time link up every important centre.

Railways were projected in China even so early as the '60's of last century when the new method of transport was still in its untamed infancy in Europe and America, and the far-sighted engineers of those early days made route plans that the engineers of to-day are following to a considerable extent, and it is interesting to note that in some cases, the Tientsin-Peking line, for example, the old Government Courier routes are followed.

Starting with the construction of the pioneer railway in China, that from Shanghai to Woosung, this Section tells the whole interesting story of the gradual railway expansion that progressed steadily in spite of official opposition, down to 1916, when thousands of miles were in operation and more thousands projected.

A description of each line is given separately, with full detail of construction, cost, ownership, loans by which the railways were built and the amounts outstanding, operation, costs, earnings, and a mass of other material not readily accessible elsewhere. In fact, this Section attempts to tell all that anyone interested in the subject could expect.

Do You Know These?

A glance at the list of railways is a test of one's geographical knowledge of the country. For example, how many readers could definitely state even the location of half of these?

Chinese Eastern Railway
South Manchurian Railway
Peking-Mukden Railway
Peking-Kalgan Railway
Peking-Hankow Railway
Taokow-Chinghua Railway
Chenghai Railway
Tientsin-Pukow Railway
Lung Hai Railway
Shantung Railway
Chafoo-Weichien Railway

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCE

RAILWAYS IN CHINA are a sign of the times. The maps of China, particularly the Railway Map in the GAZETTEER, show hundreds of miles of railways extending from the sea to distant interior points, and these are slowly but surely bringing the old young nation closer to the world, closer to herself. As America did so is China doing, strengthening herself with a steel network of communication rails.

Commerce needs transportation and a quicker means of transport than that of old is demanded. Slow-moving junks on rivers, canals and coasts are fast giving way to steam or petrol-driven steamers and launches. Many of them are Chinese built, for shipbuilding yards are appearing in the ports. Mineral wealth is being exploited, river and harbour improvements are making—there is no necessity for particularizing.

The signs of the times give promise that China in a very near future is to occupy a large space in the affairs of the world. The end of the war in Europe will see the eyes of the Commercial West turned Chinward, and organizations abroad, particularly in America, already are making toward a closer relation with this country of great commercial possibilities.

What Do You Know About China?

What are you doing toward acquainting yourself with China, the country on which you are dependent for your business, your living? Plan your work and work your plan for a better understanding of China, for a bigger business for 1918.

The first essential with which to equip yourself for a closer understanding and knowledge of China, her resources, her needs, is reliable trustworthy data such as can be obtained only from THE NEW ATLAS AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTEER OF CHINA, the first and only combined Atlas and Commercial Encyclopedia, giving all that is known of commercial industrial China, summarized, digested, visualized for you.

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STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamers	Leave Hong Kong	Connecting Mail	Due at Marseilles	Due at London
to	at Noon	St. from Colombo	1917	1917
COLOMBO				

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO, Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.
On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO

SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

S.S.

LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge. Return Tickets are available to Messageries Maritimes Company.

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(Non-Transshipment)

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS,

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Calling at SINGAPORE, PORT SWETENHAM, PENANG, COLOMBO AND PORT SAID.

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PROPOSED SAILINGS:

STEAMERS	Leave Hong Kong about	Leave S'pore about	Due at Marseilles if calling about	Due London about
The Intermediate Service is	Temporarily	Suspended.		

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All Cabins are fitted with Electric Fans free of charge and each Berth furnished with an Electric Reading Lamp.
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Return Tickets at fare and a half available to Europe for Two Years or to Intermediate Ports for Six Months.
Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godown for examination by the Consignee, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & I. & J. GILLES, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godown.
For Further Information, Passage Fares, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to
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Kobe, NAGOYA and Capt. Higo 12,500

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TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE

CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG and RANGOON.

BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA and COLOMBO.

NAGASAKI, KOBE and SAKI MARU FRIDAY, 16th Jan., at 11 A.M.
YOKOHAMA ... Capt. Yoshikawa 12,500

SHANGHAI, KOBE and ATSUTAMARU (SUNDAY, 13th Jan., at 11 A.M.)
YOKOHAMA ... Capt. Iwano 18,000

SHANGHAI, KOBE and JINSEN MARU (FRIDAY, 4th Jan., at 11 A.M.)
YOKOHAMA ... Capt. Saito 8,000

Kobe ...

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TELEPHONE Nos. 252 and 253

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E. MORI, Manager

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Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	FRI., 4th Jan.
TENYO MARU	23,000	SAT., 19th Jan.
NIPPON MARU	11,000	WED., 23rd Jan.
SHINYO MARU	23,000	SAT., 6th Feb.
PERIA MARU	9,000	FRI., 22nd Feb.
KOREA MARU	18,000	SAT., 6th Mar.

The ss. "Nippon Maru" and ss. "Peria Maru" call at Shanghai.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

HONGKONG to VALPARAISO via JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PEDRO, SANTIAGO, BALBOA, CALLAO, ARICA and IQUIQUE.

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ANYO MARU	18,500 Tons
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Passengers may travel by Rail between Ports of Call in Japan free of Charge.
For full information as to rates, sailings, etc., apply to—

T. DAIGO, Agents,
King's Building.

TELEPHONE 2274 and 2275.

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SERVICE TO AND FROM EUROPE

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For full particulars regarding sailings, apply to

P. THOMAS, Agents,
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REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG
(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line. For VICTORIA, SEATTLE and TACOMA, via SHANGHAI, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA.

"HAWAII MARU" ... MONDAY, 21st Dec., at 5 P.M.
"CANADA MARU" ... WEDNESDAY, 2nd Jan., at 3 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connection are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Mauritius, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, calling at Auckland, N.Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay sailing at Singapore, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports sailing at Manila, Sandakan and Macassar. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Anping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"OSHU MARU" ... THURSDAY, 20th Dec., at 6 A.M.
"KAJU MARU" ... SUNDAY, 23rd Dec., at 10 A.M.
"JOSHIN MARU" ... WEDNESDAY, 26th Dec., at 8 A.M.

These Formosan Lines will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 75 will be used.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

K. YAMASAKI, Manager
No. 1, Queen's Building.

TELEPHONE Nos. 744 and 745.

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Table with 3 columns: For, On Week-Days, On Sundays & Holidays. Lists destinations like Tai O, Cheung Choy, Shantou, etc.

SHARE LIST—QUOTATIONS.

Table with 5 columns: STOCKS, PAID UP, OFFICIAL QUOTATION, CLOSING QUOTATION, LAST DIVIDEND. Lists various stocks like Bank of China, etc.

Table with 5 columns: STOCKS, PAID UP, OFFICIAL QUOTATION, CLOSING QUOTATION, LAST DIVIDEND. Continuation of share list.

VERNON & SMYTH Share Brokers.

COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

Table with 2 columns: On London, On Paris, etc. Lists various commercial items and their prices.

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Table with 2 columns: Hongkong, Canton, etc. Lists subsidiary coins and their values.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-DAY 10.30 a.m.—Auction of a Large Assortment of Toys, etc., at Sales Rooms, by Messrs. Hughes & Hough.

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